MCC
METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

Sunday, February 16, 2014
6th Epiphany Sunday

Scandalous Stories: Moses

930 North 4th Street ♦ Allentown, PA 18102
610-709-8800 ♦ info@mcclv.org ♦ www.mcclv.org

The Mission of MCCLV is to call all people to a holy life in Christ, changing lives and transforming the world

MCC LEHIGH VALLEY ORDER OF SERVICE

As you prepare for worship, take a few moments to reflect on the current state of your relationship with God. Is the communication channel completely open and free of any cross-traffic that might interfere with your ability to hear from God? What do you need to let go of, so that you may let God take control? Close your eyes, take a deep breath and let worship begin for you...

Opening Song

Call to Worship

Invitation to Ministry

A Time of Praise (3 Songs)

Prayer Preparation Song

Prayer

Scripture Reading

Children's Blessing

Message

Song of Response

Offering

Offering Song

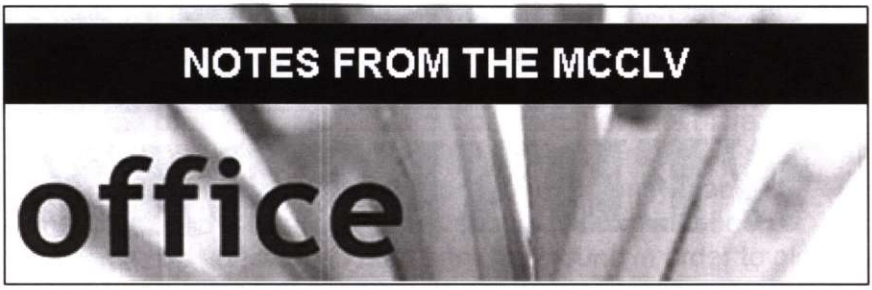
Communion

Communion Song

Prayer Over Gifts

Closing Song

Commission & Blessing



Administrative Assistant Paula Merkel
Office Hours:
Monday: 8am-2pm
Tues-Thurs: 8am-1pm
Fri: 8am-12 noon

Sunday Bulletin & Announcements

The deadline for all bulletin notices & announcements is **Wednesday at noon** – email to office@mcclv.org

Space Reservation: Any individual or group wishing to schedule a meeting or event at the church **is required to fill out a space reservation form**. Write to office@mcclv.org more information.

Looking for low-cost space for you birthday party or family celebration? Consider MCCLV's Fellowship Hall and kitchen for your gathering! Contact Administrative Assistant Paula Merkel at 610-709-8800 or e-mail office@mcclv.org for more

Audio-Visual Support: Anyone planning an event at MCCLV **is required to see Music & Worship Director Brian Jones** in advance to arrange any needed AV support. The church may not be able to honor last minute requests.

MCCLV IS ON FACEBOOK!
Search **MCC Lehigh Valley.** All MCCLV related posts and tags will be approved through the office. Thank you for your cooperation!

WEDNESDAY

- - - MAKE WEDNESDAY YOUR WORD DAY! - - -

Wednesdays at 7:00 PM, Adult Bible Study gathers for an hour at MCCLV. In this once-a-week Bible Study, participants read through a portion of the Bible each week. There is no homework or additional reading. The classes are facilitated by Rev. Goudy - beginning, intermediate and advanced Bible students are all welcome. The schedule is below:

February 19: **Now What?** (Acts 23-25)

February 26: **Now What?** (Acts 26-28)

March 5: **MCCLV's Ash Wednesday Service**

Wednesdays during the Lenten Season will be a dinner and video series. The Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study will return in May with a study on Romans titled: "*Why Do Evangelicals Love Romans So Much They Want to Marry It*?"

MCCLV is collecting donations for food cards every 2nd Sunday of the month after the worship service. Consider making a donation to help those in great need of reducing their grocery store bills. Questions? Contact Michaela Rivera (pictured at right) or e-mail her at rednegshart@aim.com

MCCLV IS ON YOUTUBE!

To view and subscribe to our channel go to **www.youtube.com** and search **MCC LV**.

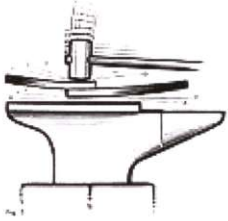
How Could MCCLV Do Church Events Differently?

Over the past year, MCCLV's major church events have experienced either low or significantly lower attendance than previous years. While the church's events were excellently planned, marketed and executed, getting people to them has been a struggle. Do you want to help turn this around in order to glorify God more widely? Gather together on **Monday, March 17, 2014 at 7:00PM** for a conversation facilitated by Rev. Goudy. Those gathered will talk with God and one another about how to transform the way MCCLV plans events. The meeting is NOT called to judge, criticize or travel down the "via negativa." The purpose is to be forward-looking and brainstorm diverse approaches to building up the kingdom of God. Be a part of this positive and inspiring conversation on March 17!

Children's Book Fund Raising Drive

MCCLV will be collecting **NEW** books for sick children from the beginning of January until the end of February. Books needed for all ages of children and teens. They must be unwrapped, non-violent and non-religious. Books will go to the "Sick Kids Can Read" program at Lehigh Valley Hospital. They can be placed in the painted box in Fellowship Hall. Please contact Cindy Rodriguez if you are interesting in donating at Cynthia.rodriguez@mcclv.org

FORGE



a stronger relationship with Christ and one another - Join a FORGE group! Groups meet every other week for one hour for worship, prayer, devotionals, testimonies, and fellowship. Although groups are spread out geographically (**SOUTH**, **EAST** and **WEST**) to make them easier to get to, you may attend whichever group you choose, even if it's not the one nearest you. **Contact group leaders to learn more!**

FORGE Group South: *Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 6:30pm*
2nd Wednesday - Loreli Bauer's home in Perkasie
4th Wednesday - Elaine Ely's home in Quakertown

FORGE South Leaders:
Loreli Bauer **lorelibauer@aol.com**
Elaine Ely **pastor_elaine@yahoo.com**

FORGE Group East - *Meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7pm at Barb Baus's home in Bethlehem*

FORGE East Leader:
Barb Baus **babaus@hotmail.com**

FORGE Group West: *Meets 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 10am*
2nd Saturday: Scott George's home in Allentown
4th Saturday: Ron Smith's home in Allentown

FORGE West Leaders:
Scott George **smgmcclv@gmail.com**
Ron Smith **ron.smith@mcclv.org**

A QUOTE FOR YOUR WEEK

"O Hidden Life vibrant in every atom
O Hidden Light! shining in every creature;
O Hidden Love! embracing all in Oneness
May each who feels himself as one with Thee,
Know he is also one with every other"

(Annie Besant)

Thank You Corner

Paula Merkel Thanks MCCLV

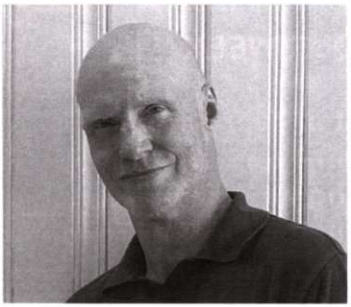
Thank you all for being so patient and understanding the last few weeks as I try to navigate my way around all the things that need to be accomplished during the week. Your encouragement has made starting a new chapter in my life much easier.

God Bless!
***Paula* (MCCLV Administrative Assistant)**

Retirees Gatherings

Retirees meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday. Come and share some "golden" time with similarly blessed retirees!

For more information, contact
Karl Steiner, karl.steiner@mcclv.org
or Elaine Ely,
pastor_elaine@yahoo.com



HIV Positive Support Group

A HIV support group at MCCLV meets the 2nd Sunday of each month at 12:30pm. The focus will be on living a positive life with HIV. Thus, the group will be called HIV/Positive Living. This will be a chance to share and have candid discussions. This group will be limited to those with HIV, but there will be occasional guest speakers. If you are interested, please contact **Dean Hiatt** at robdean@ptd.net

You shall love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.
(Deuteronomy 10:19)

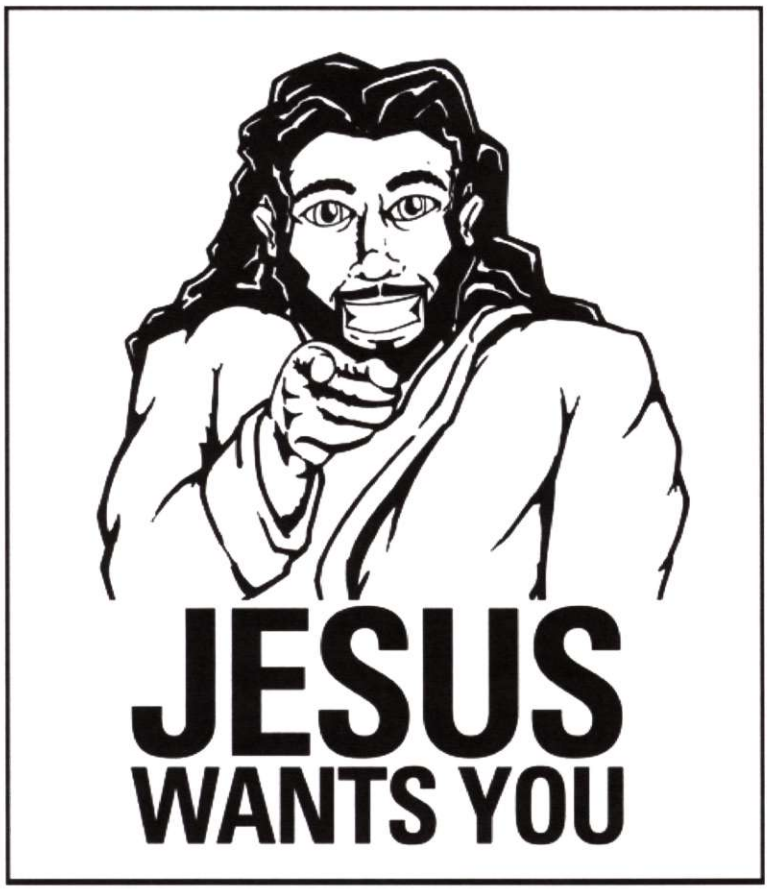
Steve Libby is the is the chairperson for the 10th Annual Academy Awards Bash to benefit Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley on Sunday, March 2nd at the Allentown BrewWorks. Over the years the Bash has raised tens of thousands of dollars to help promote awareness and greater acceptance of the GLBT community. One of the most anticipated parts of the evening is the Silent Auction table. If you are able donate an item, gift certificate or service to the Silent Auction, **contact Steve at STL327@hotmail.com**. Last year donations included items and gift cards from merchants and restaurants, weekends to hotels and resorts, autographed items from film, TV and music notables as well as authors, artists and photographers.

Are you willing to carry God's word to those in need?

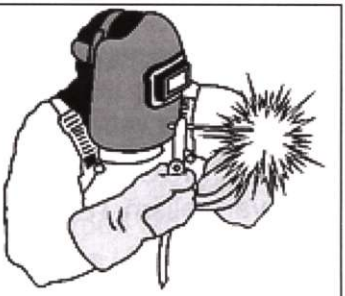
If so, MCCLV wants **YOU** to join **"The E-Team"** Evangelism Team, for bar outreach and other social gatherings.

Contact Cindy Rodriguez for more information at: cynthia.rodriguez@mcclv.org

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations."
~Matthew 19~



WELD AT MCCLV!



Interested in becoming a member of the church? Consider participating in the WELD process, a four-part membership course at MCCLV. Classes meet on **March 4, 11, 18 and 25th at 7:00 PM** here at the church. The purpose of WELD is to "weld" participants closer to God and to their brothers and sisters in Christ. Classes also include a basic introduction to discipleship and Metropolitan Community Churches.

There will be an informational session on **Sunday, March 2nd immediately** following worship to hear more about the process.

See
Emma Marrero
for more
information!

Bringing Christian Traditions Into Dialogue
HERE AT MCCLV IN 2014!

The Convergence Project

Meets every Sunday morning at MCCLV through April 13 at 9:00 AM, facilitated by Robert Schotter, robdean@ptd.net

February 23	Banned from Sunday School: Sexualities in Scripture
March 2	Inhospitable Texts: Same Sex Practices in Hebrew Scripture Part I
March 9	Inhospitable Texts: Same Sex Practices in Hebrew Scripture Part II
March 16	Jesus, Paul, Luke & Eunuchs: Same Sex Practices in Christian Scripture, Part I
March 23	Jesus, Paul, Luke & Eunuchs: Same Sex Practices in Christian Scripture, Part II
March 30	Power and the Alternative Family Values of Jesus
April 6	Reading Scripture from the Margins
April 13	Finding Ourselves and Our Communities in Scripture

Did You Know?

MCCLV completed this past year in an encouraging financial position, praise God! MCCLV ended 2013 with a positive balance in its General Fund. Thank you to all for your generous hearts!

Soloist Auditions for Worship Services will take place **TODAY** from 1:00-2:30PM. Instrumentalists and vocalists welcome. See Brian Jones for more information.

Ash Wednesday Service will be held March 5 at MCCLV 7:00pm

FREE WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS
"PEOPLE OF FAITH" VIDEOS

Be a part of MCCLV's 2014 Wednesday Night Lenten Video Series and **FREE Dinners**! The series surveys the history of Christianity in the United States & the weekly 30-minute video brings up interesting questions for reflection and discussion.

March 12th, 7:00 PM "From Monarchs to the Marketplace"
- Ministry Coordinators providing meal

March 19th, 7:00 PM "Many Mansions"
- Board of Directors providing meal

March 26th, 7:00 PM "Rebels with a Cause"
- Retirees providing meal

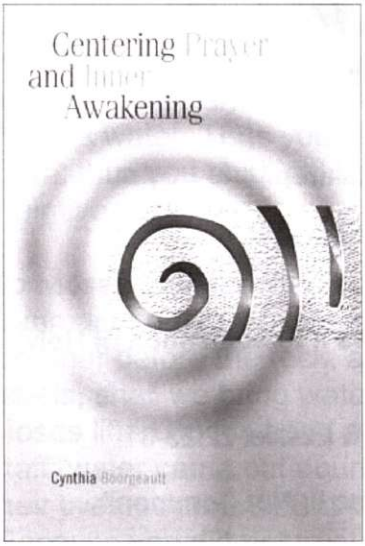
April 2nd, 7:00 PM "Challenges and Change"
- Choir providing meal

April 9th, 7:00 PM "Home Grown Saints"
- 20s30s providing meal

April 16th, 7:00 PM "The Future of Christianity"
- Worship Team providing meal

RSVP to **office@mcclv.org** or 610-709-8800. All ages are welcome. ***A great family activity***!

MCCLV and St. Andrews Episcopal Church will be co-sponsoring a fundraising raffle to benefit homeless men in the Lehigh Valley. Raffle tickets will be sold during fellowship hour: 3 tickets for each $1.00 donation. Prizes consist of a free haircut by Ruben, a hair care basket, a Zumba lesson and others. Donation of these items will be accepted: blankets, men's socks – all sizes, and men's personal care items. Donations will be distributed during Friday evening dinners provided to these men on January 31, February 28 and March 28, 2014. Volunteers are needed for multiple areas. For more information please contact Saadia Negron or Virginia Maurer after worship.



Are You Feeling Off-Center?

Is your life feeling a bit off-kilter or are you in need of a deeper way of prayer? In May, June and July MCCLV will offer Centering Prayer at 6:00PM on Wednesdays. It would be helpful (though not required) if participants would read Rev. Cynthia Bourgeault's book "Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening" before May. Questions? See Rev. Goudy or e-mail her at rev.goudy@mcclv.org

Food Pantry

Contributions are always needed for MCCLV's Food Panty, bring in a donation whenever you are able. Volunteers are also needed for the Pantry. To be a part, contact Judy McNally (pictured at left) or e-mail her at: njm0@lehigh.edu

UPCOMING WORSHIP AT MCCLV

7th Epiphany: February 23, 2014 @ 10:30am
Scripture Reading: Mark 2:13-17
Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Sermon Title: **"The Biggest Scandal of All: Jesus"**

Transfiguration Sunday: March 2, 2014 @ 10:30am
Scripture Reading: Matthew 17:1-9
Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Sermon Title: **"Sustaining the Mountaintop"**

Ash Wednesday: March 5, 2014 @ 7:00pm
Scripture Reading: Exodus 3:1-6
Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Sermon Title: "**The Pursuit of Holiness I: First Mention of Holy"**

1st Lent: March 9, 2014 @ 10:30am
Scripture Readings: Leviticus 10:8-10 & Ezekiel 22:23-31
Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Sermon Title: **"The Pursuit of Holiness II: Not Common"**

2nd Lent: March 16, 2014 @ 10:30am
Scripture Reading: Nehemiah 8:5-12
Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Sermon Title: **"The Pursuit of Holiness III: Joy"**

3rd Lent: March 23, 2014
Scripture Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8
Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Sermon Title: **"The Pursuit of Holiness IV: A Highway Called Holy"**

Today's Scripture Readings:

Numbers 20: 2-13

Now there was no water for the congregation; so they gathered together against Moses and against Aaron. The people quarrelled with Moses and said, 'Would that we had died when our kindred died before the Lord! Why have you brought the assembly of the Lord into this wilderness for us and our livestock to die here? Why have you brought us up out of Egypt, to bring us to this wretched place? It is no place for grain, or figs, or vines, or pomegranates; and there is no water to drink.' Then Moses and Aaron went away from the assembly to the entrance of the tent of meeting; they fell on their faces, and the glory of the Lord appeared to them. The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and your brother Aaron, and command the rock before their eyes to yield its water. Thus you shall bring water out of the rock for them; thus you shall provide drink for the congregation and their livestock.

So Moses took the staff from before the Lord, as he had commanded him. Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, 'Listen, you rebels, shall we bring water for you out of this rock?' Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his staff; water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their livestock drank. But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'Because you did not trust in me, to show my holiness before the eyes of the Israelites, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them.' These are the waters of Meribah, where the people of Israel quarrelled with the Lord, and by which he showed his holiness.

MCCLV's Weekly 2014 Budgeted for Giving is 3,916.98

Date	Attendance	Giving
2/9/204	91	$2,889.16
2/8/2014	102	$670.50
2/2/2014	72	$2,815.46
1/26/2014	78	$3,007.59

Full financial reporting is provided at the Board meeting on the 2nd Sunday of every month. All are welcome to attend. Additionally, reports may be viewed in the Board binder in the Library.

MCCLV MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Congregational Care & Health:
Karl Steiner | karl.steiner@mcclv.org
20s30s Ministry, Faith Community Nurse, Hospitality, Prayer Team and Reconciliation & Affirmation Ministry

Discipleship:
If interested in this position see Rev. Goudy
Small Group Discipleship, Spiritual Growth Programming and Children & Youth Ministry

Outreach & Justice:
Cynthia Rodriguez | cynthia.rodriguez@mcclv.org
Evangelism, Free Market, Silent Witness, Food Bank and Messengers Art Ministry

Media & Marketing:
If interested in this position see Rev. Goudy
Communications and Marketing Ministry

Denominational Representatives:
Lay Delegates Hope Hilby and Normana Schaaf

MCCLV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sue Carpenter, Jim Harbst, Diana LaTorre, Emma Marrero, Lauren Sheldon and Ron Smith
If you would like an item included on the Board agenda see any Board Member

MCCLV DEACONS

Loreli Bauer, Maricel Concepcion, Clarence Freed, Hope Hilby, Jessica Mitchell, Normana Schaaf, Karl Steiner and Carol Stevens

MCCLV STAFF

Pastor: Elizabeth Goudy | rev.goudy@mcclv.org
Music and Worship Director: Brian Jones | brian.jones@mcclv.org
Administrative Assistant: Paula Merkel | office@mcclv.org